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— — The new polymeric thickeners are effective with a broad range of oils. Suitable oils are disclosed, for example, at column 3, line 37 to column 4, line 4, of U.S. Patent No. 5, 736,125, and elsewhere in the documents incorporated by reference herein. Thus the oil can be, for example, an oil selected from the group consisting of mineral oils; vaseline oils; hydrogenated polyisobutylene; triglycerides; purcellin oil; isopropyl myristate; butyl myristate; cetyl myristate; isopropyl palmitate; butyl palmitate; ethyl-2-hexyl palmitate; isopropyl stearate; butyl stearate; octyl hexadecyl stearate; isocetyl stearate; decyl oleate; hexyl laurate; propylene glycol dicaprylate, diisopropyl adipate; animal oils; silicone oils; oleyl alcohol; linoleyl alcohol; linolenyl alcohol; isostearyl alcohol; octyl dodecanol; esters derived from lanolic acid; and acetyl glycerides.— —

15 In the Claims

Please rewrite claims 11 and 21 as set out below.

In accordance with 37 CFR 121 (c):

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(1) A clean version of the entire set of pending claims is set out below. In this version,

(i) the amended claims are without markings to indicate the changes made, and

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(ii) in each claim, a parenthetical expression follows the claim number indicating the status of the claim as amended or unchanged.

(2) Attached hereto is a separate paper entitled

"Version of Amended Claims with Markings to show Changes requested by the accompanying Reply, filed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(c)(1)(ii)".

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That separate paper sets out each of the rewritten claims, marked up to show all the changes relative to the previous version of the claim. In that separate paper,

- (i) a parenthetical expression (which is the same as the parenthetical expression in the clean version of claims set out below) follows the claim number and indicates the status of the claim as amended, and
- (ii) the changes are shown by brackets (for deleted matter) and underlining (for added matter).

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10 Claim 1 was previously canceled

2. (Unchanged) A composition according to Claim 10 which is substantially free of water.

15 3. (Unchanged) A thickened oil composition which is a water-in-oil emulsion and which comprises

(1) an oil, and

(2) dispersed in the oil, a polymer which

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(a) has a crystalline melting point, T_p , and an onset of melting temperature, T_o , such that $T_p - T_o$ is less than $T_p^{0.7}$;

(b) is soluble in the oil at temperatures above T_p ,

(c) has been dispersed in the oil by a process which comprises

(i) dissolving the polymer in the oil at a temperature above T_p , and

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(ii) cooling the solution to crystallize the polymer in the oil,

and

(d) is a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which is substantially free of functional groups;

the composition being at a temperature below T_p .

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Claim 4 was previously canceled

5. (Unchanged) A thickened oil composition comprising
- (1) an oil, and
 - (2) dispersed in the oil, at least 3% by weight of a polymer which
 - (a) has a crystalline melting point, T_p , and an onset of melting temperature, T_o , such that $T_p - T_o$ is less than $T_p^{0.7}$;
 - (b) is soluble in the oil at temperatures above T_p ,
 - (c) has been dispersed in the oil by a process which comprises
 - (i) dissolving the polymer in the oil at a temperature above T_p , and
 - (ii) cooling the solution to crystallize the polymer in the oil, and
 - (d) is a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which is substantially free of functional groups, and which consists of
 - (i) 50 to 100% by weight of units derived from at least one n-alkyl acrylate or methacrylate in which the n-alkyl group contains 12 to 50 carbon atoms, and
 - (ii) less than 50% by weight of units derived from at least one alkyl acrylate or methacrylate in which the alkyl group is not an n-alkyl group containing 12 to 50 carbon atoms;
- the composition being at a temperature below T_p .

Claim 6 was previously canceled

7. (Unchanged) A thickened oil composition which comprises
- (1) an oil, and
 - (2) dispersed in the oil, a polymer which
 - (a) has a crystalline melting point, T_p , and an onset of melting temperature, T_o , such that $T_p - T_o$ is less than $T_p^{0.7}$;
 - (b) is soluble in the oil at temperatures above T_p ,

- (c) has been dispersed in the oil by a process which comprises
 (i) dissolving the polymer in the oil at a temperature above T_p , and
 (ii) cooling the solution to crystallize the polymer in the oil,
- 5 (d) is a side chain crystalline (SCC) homopolymer which is substantially free of functional groups, and
- (e) is present in amount such that it thickens the oil;
 the composition being at a temperature below T_p .
- 10 8. (Unchanged) A composition according to Claim 7, wherein the SCC polymer consists essentially of units derived from an n-alkyl acrylate or methacrylate in which the n-alkyl group contains 12 to 50 carbon atoms.
- 15 9. (Unchanged) A composition according to Claim 8 wherein the SCC polymer is present in amount at least 3% by weight and the n-alkyl group contains 16 to 50 carbon atoms.
10. (Unchanged) A thickened oil composition comprising
- (1) an oil, and
- 20 (2) dispersed in the oil, a polymer which
- (a) has a crystalline melting point, T_p , and an onset of melting temperature, T_o , such that $T_p - T_o$ is less than $T_p^{0.7}$;
- (b) is soluble in the oil at temperatures above T_p ,
- (c) has been dispersed in the oil by a process which comprises
- 25 (i) dissolving the polymer in the oil at a temperature above T_p , and
- (ii) cooling the solution to crystallize the polymer in the oil,
- (d) is a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which is substantially free of functional groups, and which consists of

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- (i) 50 to 100% by weight of units derived from at least one n-alkyl acrylate or methacrylate in which the n-alkyl group contains 12 to 50 carbon atoms, and
- (ii) less than 50% by weight of units derived from at least one alkyl acrylate or methacrylate in which the alkyl group is not an n-alkyl group containing 12 to 50 carbon atoms, and
- (e) is present in amount such that it thickens the oil;

the composition being at a temperature below T_p .

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11. (Amended)

A thickened oil composition comprising

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- (1) an oil, and
- (3) dispersed in the oil, a polymer which
 - (a) has a crystalline melting point, T_p , and an onset of melting temperature, T_o , such that $T_p - T_o$ is less than $T_p^{0.7}$;
 - (b) is soluble in the oil at temperatures above T_p ,
 - (c) has been dispersed in the oil by a process which comprises
 - (i) dissolving the polymer in the oil at a temperature above T_p , and
 - (ii) cooling the solution to crystallize the polymer in the oil,
 - (d) is a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which is substantially free of functional groups, and which consists of
 - (i) 50 to 100% by weight of units derived from at least one n-alkyl acrylate or methacrylate in which the n-alkyl group contains 16 to 50 carbon atoms, and
 - (ii) less than 50% by weight of units derived from at least one alkyl acrylate or methacrylate in which the alkyl group is not an n-alkyl group containing 12 to 50 carbon atoms, and
 - (e) is present in amount at least 3 % by weight

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the composition being at a temperature below T_p .

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12. (Unchanged) A composition according to Claim 10, wherein T_p is above 40 °C.

13. (Unchanged) A composition according to Claim 10, wherein T_p is 40-50 °C.

14. (Unchanged) A composition according to Claim 10, wherein $T_p - T_o$ is less than
5 10°C.

Claims 15 and 16 were previously canceled.

17. (Unchanged) A thickened oil composition which is a water-in-oil emulsion and
10 which comprises

(1) an oil, and

(2) dispersed in the oil, at least 3% by weight of a side chain crystalline (SCC)
polymer which

(a) has a crystalline melting point, T_p , of 20 to 80 °C, and an
15 onset of melting temperature, T_o , such that $T_p - T_o$ is less than
10 °C;

(b) is soluble in the oil at temperatures above T_p ,

(c) has been dispersed in the oil by a process which comprises

(i) dissolving the polymer in the oil at a temperature above
20 T_p , and

(ii) cooling the solution to crystallize the polymer in the oil,

(d) contains at least 80% by weight of repeating units containing
a side chain comprising a linear polymethylene radical or a linear
substantially perfluorinated polymethylene radical containing 6 to
25 50 carbon atoms, and

(e) is substantially free of functional groups;

the composition being at a temperature below T_p .

18. (Unchanged) A composition according to Claim 17, wherein T_p is 40-50 °C.

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19. (Unchanged) A composition according to Claim 17, wherein the SCC polymer consists essentially of units derived from at least one n-alkyl acrylate or methacrylate in which the n-alkyl group contains 12 to 50 carbon atoms.

5 20. (Unchanged) A thickened oil composition which comprises

- (1) an oil, and
- (2) dispersed in the oil, at least 3% by weight of a side chain crystalline (SCC) homopolymer which

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- (a) has a crystalline melting point, T_p , of 20 to 80 °C, and an onset of melting temperature, T_o , such that $T_p - T_o$ is less than 10 °C;

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- (b) is soluble in the oil at temperatures above T_p ,
- (c) has been dispersed in the oil by a process which comprises
 - (i) dissolving the polymer in the oil at a temperature above T_p , and

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- (ii) cooling the solution to crystallize the polymer in the oil,
- (d) contains at least 80% by weight of repeating units containing a side chain comprising a linear polymethylene radical containing 10 to 50 carbon atoms or a linear substantially perfluorinated polymethylene radical containing 6 to 50 carbon atoms, and
- (e) is substantially free of functional groups;

the composition being at a temperature below T_p .

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21. (Amended) A thickened oil composition comprising

- (1) an oil selected from the group consisting of mineral oils; vaseline oils; hydrogenated polyisobutylene; triglycerides; purcellin oil; isopropyl myristate; butyl myristate; cetyl myristate; isopropyl palmitate; butyl palmitate; ethyl-2-hexyl palmitate; isopropyl stearate; butyl stearate; octyl hexadecyl stearate; isocetyl stearate; decyl oleate; hexyl laurate; propylene glycol dicaprylate, diisopropyl adipate; animal oils; silicone oils;

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oleyl alcohol; linoleyl alcohol; linolenyl alcohol; isostearyl alcohol; octyl dodecanol; esters derived from lanolic acid, and acetyl glycerides.; and

- (2) dispersed in the oil, a polymer which
- (a) has a crystalline melting point, T_p , and an onset of melting temperature, T_o , such that $T_p - T_o$ is less than $T_p^{0.7}$;
 - (b) is soluble in the oil at temperatures above T_p ,
 - (c) has been dispersed in the oil by a process which comprises
 - (i) dissolving the polymer in the oil at a temperature above T_p , and
 - (ii) cooling the solution to crystallize the polymer in the oil,
 - (d) is a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which is substantially free of functional groups, and which consists of
 - (i) 50 to 100% by weight of units derived from at least one n-alkyl acrylate or methacrylate in which the n-alkyl group contains 12 to 50 carbon atoms, and
 - (ii) less than 50% by weight of units derived from at least one alkyl acrylate or methacrylate in which the alkyl group is not an n-alkyl group containing 12 to 50 carbon atoms, and
 - (e) is present in amount such that it thickens the oil;
- the composition being at a temperature below T_p .

22. (Unchanged) A composition according to Claim 21, wherein T_p is above 40 °C.

23. (Unchanged) A composition according to Claim 21, wherein T_p is 40-50 °C.

24. (Unchanged) A composition according to Claim 21, wherein $T_p - T_o$ is less than 10°C.

25. (Unchanged) A composition according to Claim 21, wherein the SCC polymer comprises a homopolymer of the n-alkyl acrylate in which the n-alkyl group contains 18 carbon atoms.

26. (Unchanged) A composition according to Claim 21, wherein the SCC polymer a homopolymer of the n-alkyl acrylate in which the n-alkyl group contains 22 carbon atoms.

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27. (Unchanged) A composition according to Claim 5, wherein the SCC polymer contains at least 80% by weight of repeating units containing a side chain comprising a linear polymethylene radical containing 10 to 50 carbon atoms.

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